

Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, DHS, Treasury

§ 4.30

Finding Aids section of the printed volume and on GPO Access.

§ 4.23 Certificate of payment and cash receipt.

Upon each payment of tonnage tax or light money, the master of the vessel shall be given a certificate on Customs Form 1002 on which the control number of the cash receipt (Customs Form 368 or 368A) upon which payment was recorded shall be written. This certificate shall constitute the official evidence of such payment and shall be presented upon each entry during the tonnage year to establish the date of commencement of the tonnage year and to insure against overpayment. In the absence of the certificate, evidence of payment of tonnage tax shall be obtained from the port director to whom the payment was made.

[T.D. 85-71, 50 FR 15415, Apr. 18, 1985, as amended by T.D. 92-56, 57 FR 24943, June 12, 1992]

§ 4.24 Application for refund of tonnage tax.

(a) The authority to make refunds in accordance with section 26 of the Act of June 26, 1884 (46 U.S.C. 8) of regular tonnage taxes described in § 4.20(a) is delegated to the Directors of the ports where the collections were made. If any doubt exists, the case shall first be referred to Headquarters, U.S. Customs Service for advice.

(b) Each application for refund of regular or special tonnage tax or light money prepared in accordance with this section shall be filed with the Customs officer to whom payment was made. After verification of the pertinent facts asserted in the claim, the application shall be forwarded with any necessary report or recommendation to the appropriate port director. Applications for refund of special tonnage tax and light money (see § 4.20(c)) with the reports and recommendations submitted therewith shall be forwarded by the port director to the Commissioner of Customs for decision. Any refund authorized by the Port Director under paragraph (a) of this section or any refund of special tonnage tax or light money authorized by the Commissioner of Customs shall be made by the appropriate Customs officer. The records of

tonnage tax shall be clearly noted to show each refund authorized.

(c) The application shall be a direct request for the refund of a definite sum, showing concisely the reasons therefor, the nationality and name of the vessel, and the date, place, and amount of each payment for which refund is requested. The application shall be made within 1 year from date of the payment. A protest against a payment shall not be accepted as an application for its refund.

(d) When the application is based upon a claim that more than five payments of regular tax at either the 2-cent or the 6-cent rate have been made during a tonnage year, the application shall be supported by a statement from the appropriate Customs officer at the port where the application is submitted and from the appropriate Customs officer at each port at which any claimed payment was made verifying the facts and showing in each case whether refunds have been authorized.

(e) The application shall include a certificate by the owner or by the owner's agent that payment of tonnage tax at the applicable rate has been or will be made for each entry of the vessel on a voyage on which that rate is applicable before the end of the current tonnage year, exclusive of any payment which has been refunded or which may be refunded as a result of such application.

(f) The owner or operator of the vessel involved, or other party in interest, may file with the port Director a petition addressed to the Commissioner of Customs for a review of the port director's decision on an application for refund of regular tonnage tax. Such petition shall be filed in duplicate within 30 days from the date of notice of the initial decision, shall completely identify the case, and shall set forth in detail the exceptions to the decision.

[T.D. 71-274, 36 FR 21025, Nov. 3, 1971, as amended by T.D. 95-77, 60 FR 50010, Sept. 27, 1995]

LANDING AND DELIVERY OF CARGO

§ 4.30 Permits and special licenses for unloading and lading.

(a) Except as prescribed in paragraph (f), (g), or (k) of this section or in § 123.8

of this chapter, and except in the case of a vessel exempt from entry or clearance fees under 19 U.S.C. 288, no passengers, cargo, baggage, or other article shall be unladen from a vessel which arrives directly or indirectly from any port or place outside the Customs territory of the U.S., including the adjacent waters (see §4.6 of this part), or from a vessel which transits the Panama Canal and no cargo, baggage, or other article shall be laden on a vessel destined to a port or place outside the Customs territory of the U.S., including the adjacent waters (see §4.6 of this part) if Customs supervision of such lading is required, until the port director shall have issued a permit or special license therefore on Customs Form 3171 or electronically pursuant to an authorized electronic data interchange system or other means of communication approved by the Customs Service.

(1) U.S. and foreign vessels arriving at a U.S. port directly from a foreign port or place are required to make entry, whether it be formal or, as provided in §4.8, preliminary, before the port director may issue a permit or special license to lade or unlade.

(2) U.S. vessels arriving at a U.S. port from another U.S. port at which formal entry was made may be issued a permit or special license to lade or unlade without having to make either preliminary or formal entry at the second and subsequent ports. Foreign vessels arriving at a U.S. port from another U.S. port at which formal entry was made may be issued a permit or special license to lade or unlade at the second and subsequent ports prior to formal entry without the necessity of making preliminary entry. In these circumstances, after the master has reported arrival of the vessel, the port director may issue the permit or special license or may, in his discretion, require the vessel to be boarded, the master to make an oath or affirmation to the truth of the statements contained in the vessel's manifest to the Customs officer who boards the vessel, and require delivery of the manifest prior to issuing the permit.

(b) Application for a permit or special license will be made by the master, owner, or agent of the vessel on Customs

Form 3171, or electronically pursuant to an authorized electronic data interchange system or other means of communication approved by the Customs Service, and will specifically indicate the type of service desired at that time, unless a term permit or term special license has been issued. Vessels that arrive in a Customs port with more than one vessel carrier sharing or leasing space on board the vessel (such as under a vessel sharing or slot charter arrangement) are required to indicate on the CF 3171 all carriers on board the vessel and indicate whether each carrier is transmitting its cargo declaration electronically or is presenting it on the Customs Form 1302. In the case of a term permit or term special license, upon entry of each vessel, a copy of the term permit or special license must be submitted to Customs during official hours in advance of the rendering of services so as to update the nature of the services desired and the exact times they will be needed. Permits must also be updated to reflect any other needed changes including those in the name of the vessel as well as the slot charter or vessel sharing parties. An agent of a vessel may limit his application to operations involved in the entry and unlading of the vessel or to operations involved in its lading and clearance. Such limitation will be specifically noted on the application.

(c) The request for a permit or a special license shall not be approved (previously issued term permits or special licenses shall be revoked) unless the carrier complies with the provisions of paragraphs (1) and (m) of this section regarding terminal facilities and employee lists, and the required cash deposit or bond has been filed on Customs Form 301, containing the bond conditions set forth in §113.64 of this chapter relating to international carriers.⁶²

⁶² "Before any such special license to unlade shall be granted, the master, owner, or agent of such vessel or vehicle, or the person in charge of such vehicle, shall be required to deposit sufficient money to pay, or to give a bond in an amount to be fixed by the Secretary conditioned to pay, the compensation and expenses of the customs officers and employees assigned to duty in connection with such unlading at night or on

When a carrier has on file a bond on Customs Form 301, containing the bond conditions set forth in §113.63 of this chapter relating to basic custodial bond conditions, no further bond shall be required solely by reason of the unloading or lading at night or on a Sunday or holiday of merchandise or baggage covered by bonded transportation entries. Separate bonds shall be required if overtime services are requested by different principals.

(d) Except as prescribed in paragraph (f) or (g) of this section, a separate application for a permit or special license shall be filed in the case of each arrival.

(e) Stevedoring companies and others concerned in lading or unloading merchandise, or in removing or otherwise securing it, shall ascertain that the applicable preliminary Customs requirements have been complied with before commencing such operation, since performance in the absence of such compliance render them severally liable to the penalties prescribed in section 453, Tariff Act of 1930, even though they may not be responsible for taking the action necessary to secure compliance.

(f) The port director may issue a term permit on Customs Form 3171, which will remain in effect until revoked by the port director, terminated by the carrier, or automatically cancelled by termination of the supporting continuous bond, to unlade merchandise, passengers, or baggage, or to lade merchandise or baggage during official hours.

(g) The port director may issue a term special license on Customs Form 3171, which will remain in effect until revoked by the port director, terminated by the carrier, or automatically cancelled by termination of the sup-

porting continuous bond, to unlade merchandise, passengers, or baggage, or to lade merchandise or baggage during overtime hours or on a Sunday or holiday when Customs supervision is required. (See §24.16 of this chapter regarding pleasure vessels.)

(h) A special license for the unloading or lading of a vessel at night or on a Sunday or holiday shall be refused by the port director if the character of the merchandise or the conditions or facilities at the place of unloading or lading render the issuance of such special license dangerous to the revenue. In no case shall a special license for unloading or lading at night or on a Sunday or holiday be granted except on the ground of commercial necessity.

(i) The port director shall not issue a permit or special license to unlade cargo or equipment of vessels arriving directly or indirectly from any port or place outside the United States, except on compliance with one or more of the following conditions:

(1) The merchandise shall have been duly entered and permits issued; or

(2) A bond on Customs Form 301, containing the bond conditions set forth in §113.64 of this chapter relating to international carriers, or cash deposit shall have been given; or

(3) The merchandise is to be discharged into the custody of the port director as provided for in section 490(b), Tariff Act of 1930.

(j) Bonds are not required under this section for vessels owned by the United States and operated for its account.

(k) In the case of vessels of 5 net tons or over which are used exclusively as pleasure vessels and which arrive from any country, the port director in his discretion and under such conditions as he deems advisable may allow the required application for unloading passengers and baggage to be made orally, and may authorize his inspectors to grant oral permission for unloading at any time, and to grant requests on Customs Form 3171 for overtime services.

(l) A permit to unlade pursuant to this part 4 or part 122 of this chapter shall not be granted unless the port director determines that the applicant provides or the terminal at which the applicant will unlade the cargo provides (1) sufficient space, capable of

Sunday or a holiday, in accordance with the provisions of section 5 of the act of February 13, 1911, as amended (U.S.C. 1952 edition, title 19 sec. 267). In lieu of such deposit or bond the owner or agent of any vessel or vehicle or line of vessels or vehicles may execute a bond in an amount to be fixed by the Secretary of the Treasury to cover and include the issuance of special licenses for the unloading of such vessels or vehicles for a period not to exceed one year. * * * (Tariff Act of 1930, section 451, as amended, 19 U.S.C. 1451)

⁶³⁻⁶⁶ [Reserved]

§4.31

being locked, sealed, or otherwise secured, for the storage immediately upon unloading of cargo whose weight-to-value ratio renders it susceptible to theft or pilferage and of packages which have been broken prior to or in the course of unloading; and (2) an adequate number of vehicles, capable of being locked, sealed, or otherwise secured, for the transportation of such cargo or packages between the point of unloading and the point of storage. A term permit to unlade shall be revoked if the port director determines subsequent to such issuance that the requirements of this paragraph have not been met.

(m) A permit to unlade pursuant to this part 4 or part 122 of this chapter shall not be granted to an importing carrier, and a term permit to unlade previously granted to such a carrier shall be revoked, (1) if such carrier, within 30 days after the date of receipt of a written demand by the port director, does not furnish a written list of the names, addresses, social security numbers, and dates and places of birth of persons it employs in connection with the unloading, storage and delivery of imported merchandise; or (2) if, having furnished such a list, the carrier does not advise the port director in writing of the names, addresses, social security numbers, and dates and places of birth of any new personnel employed in connection with the unloading, storage and delivery of imported merchandise within 10 days after such employment. If the employment of any such person is terminated, the carrier shall promptly advise the port director. For the purposes of this part, a person shall not be deemed to be employed by a carrier if he is an officer or employee of an independent contractor engaged by a carrier to load, unload, transport or otherwise handle cargo.

(n)(1) Customs will not issue a permit to unlade before it has received the cargo declaration information pursuant to §4.7(b). In cases in which Customs does not receive complete cargo manifest information from the carrier or from the NVOCC, in the manner and format required by §4.7(b), 24 hours prior to the lading of the cargo aboard the vessel at the foreign port, Customs may delay issuance of a permit to

19 CFR Ch. I (4–1–09 Edition)

unlade the entire vessel until all required information is received. Customs may also decline to issue a permit to unlade the specific cargo for which a declaration is not received 24 hours before lading in a foreign port. Furthermore, where the carrier does not present an advance cargo manifest to Customs electronically, in the manner provided in §4.7(b)(2), preliminary entry pursuant to §4.8(b) will be denied.

(2) In addition, while the advance presentation of the cargo manifest for any vessel subject to §4.7(b)(2) may be made in paper form or by electronic transmission through a Customs-approved electronic data interchange system, the submission of an electronic manifest for the cargo in this regard, as opposed to a paper manifest, will further facilitate the prompt issuance of a permit to unlade the cargo.

[28 FR 14596, Dec. 31, 1963, as amended by T.D. 68–247, 33 FR 15022, Oct. 8, 1968; T.D. 71–39, 36 FR 1891, Feb. 3, 1971; T.D. 72–189, 38 FR 13975, July 15, 1972; T.D. 73–27, 38 FR 2448, Jan. 26, 1973; T.D. 84–213, 49 FR 41163, Oct. 19, 1984; T.D. 88–12, 53 FR 9314, Mar. 22, 1988; T.D. 92–74, 57 FR 35751, Aug. 11, 1992; T.D. 93–66, 58 FR 44130, Aug. 19, 1993; T.D. 93–96, 58 FR 67316, Dec. 21, 1993; T.D. 94–2, 58 FR 68523, Dec. 28, 1993; T.D. 95–77, 60 FR 50010, Sept. 27, 1995; T.D. 96–11, 61 FR 2414, Jan. 26, 1996; T.D. 93–96, 61 FR 3569, Feb. 1, 1996; T.D. 00–4, 65 FR 2873, Jan. 19, 2000; T.D. 02–62, 67 FR 66332, Oct. 31, 2002]

§4.31 Unlading or transshipment due to casualty.

(a) When any cargo or stores of a vessel have been unladen or transshipped at any place in the United States or its Customs waters other than a port of entry because of accident, stress of weather, or other necessity, no penalty shall be imposed under section 453 or 586(a), Tariff Act of 1930, if due notice is given to the director of the port at which the vessel thereafter first arrives and satisfactory proof is submitted to him as provided for in section 586(f), Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, regarding such accident, stress of weather, or other necessity. The port director may accept the certificates of the master and two or more officers or members of the crew of the vessel, of whom the person next to the master in command shall be one, as proof that the unlading